

Agency 05 - Supreme Court

Statutory Authority:

There are two central objectives provided by law to the Supreme Court. The first of those is the obligation to decide cases on appeal. There is a small volume of cases which are exclusively in the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. The rest of the cases processed by the Supreme Court come as a result of an affirmative decision on a petition for further review in a case previously decided by the Court of Appeals or because of the Supreme Court moving cases either on motion of a party or on its own motion to level workload. There are approximately 250 petitions for further review filed in a year. The Court currently grants less than one petition in five.

Vision Statement:

Mission Statement:

Goals:

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	45,979,550	50,230,973	57,660,702	54,574,686	57,112,898	56,590,952
Cash Fund	1,104,761	1,100,858	1,431,153	1,511,467	1,454,053	1,546,917
Federal Fund	798,862	811,909	880,341	877,797	881,661	895,741
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	47,883,173	52,143,740	59,972,196	56,963,950	59,448,612	59,033,610

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Program 003 - Supreme Court Judges' Salaries

Program Objectives:

This program covers the salaries and benefits of the Chief Justice and the six justices of the Supreme Court of the State of Nebraska. The Supreme Court's basic responsibility is to hear appeals and is the highest appellate court in the State of Nebraska. The right of appeal is guaranteed by the Constitution. The Constitution also provides that certain enumerated original actions and appeals of capital cases and cases involving the constitutionality of a statute must go to the Supreme Court. Additionally, statutes provide for direct appeals to the Supreme Court, bypassing the Court of Appeals, and for further review by the Supreme Court of cases heard originally by the Court of Appeals.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	788,953	838,332	871,125	873,431	871,240	878,844
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	788,953	838,332	871,125	873,431	871,240	878,844

Performance Measures:

In 1999, the Supreme Court disposed 327 cases, 256 of them by written opinion. The Court also processed some 314 petitions for further review and 74 petitions to bypass.

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Program 004 - Court Of Appeals Judges' Salaries

Program Objectives:

This program covers the salaries and benefits of the six judges of the Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals is Nebraska's intermediate appellate court. The Constitution of the State of Nebraska guarantees each citizen the right of an appeal from a trial court to an appellate court. This court and the Supreme Court comprise the appellate courts in Nebraska.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	631,680	655,665	715,206	717,370	715,254	721,982
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	631,680	655,665	715,206	717,370	715,254	721,982

Performance Measures:

There are currently six judges serving this court and they work in two panels of three judges each. In 1999, there were 1,414 new cases filed in the Court of Appeals. The Court disposed 1,205 cases, 473 of them by written opinion.

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Program 005 - Retired Judges' Salaries

Program Objectives:

This program covers the salaries and benefits of retired judges assigned to serve on courts in the state. The Supreme Court has the authority to assign retired judges to service on any court in the state. Retired judges so assigned must indicate their willingness to serve. The pay they receive is defined by statute. Generally retired judges are used in the case of vacancies on specific courts. However, from time to time they have been used to relieve workload pressures by adding resources to specific benches. In the past, this has been most common on the juvenile and appellate courts.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	66,216	25,000	27,001	25,000	27,001	25,000
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	66,216	25,000	27,001	25,000	27,001	25,000

Performance Measures:

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Program 006 - District & Juvenile Court Judges' Salaries

Program Objectives:

This program covers the salaries and benefits of the fifty-four district court judges and the nine separate juvenile court judges. The district and separate juvenile courts are created by Article V, Section 1, and Article V, Section 27 of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, respectively. These judges are the general jurisdiction judges of the State of Nebraska. As such, they hear all felony matters, domestic relations matters, and civil matters where more than \$15,000 is in controversy. Additionally, they have concurrent jurisdiction with the county courts in most, but not all, other matters. Finally, they act as an appeals court for appeals from county courts for civil and criminal cases and also from administrative agencies.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	6,646,699	7,217,317	7,297,780	7,310,714	7,297,841	7,355,685
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	6,646,699	7,217,317	7,297,780	7,310,714	7,297,841	7,355,685

Performance Measures:

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Program 007 - County Court Judges' Salaries

Program Objectives:

This program covers the salaries and benefits of the fifty-nine county court judges. The county court was created by Article V, Section 1 of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska and the salaries of the judges of the court are specifically provided for in Section 24-513 R.R.S. 1943. There are at present fifty-nine county judges serving twelve judicial districts. These judges have jurisdiction over civil matters of less than \$15,000, misdemeanors, and preliminary hearings in felony cases. Those judges outside of Douglas, Sarpy, and Lancaster county also act as juvenile judges. County courts also have jurisdiction over city ordinance violations and have jurisdiction in probate, adoption, guardianship, conservatorship, and related matters.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	5,862,434	6,522,463	6,596,883	6,638,320	6,630,335	6,711,392
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	5,862,434	6,522,463	6,596,883	6,638,320	6,630,335	6,711,392

Performance Measures:

Agency 05 - Supreme Court Program 052 - Court Operations

Program Objectives:

Umbrella Program Number 052 includes Program Classification Numbers 034, 040, 396, and 399.

This umbrella program includes the budget for Court Administration, State law Library, County Court System, and District Court Reporters.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	17,520,676	18,855,589	22,390,309	21,653,895	22,291,699	22,574,201
Cash Fund	368,299	540,579	735,025	734,900	752,777	754,272
Federal Fund	296,465	225,040	280,341	274,508	281,661	276,249
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	18,185,440	19,621,208	23,405,675	22,663,303	23,326,137	23,604,722

Performance Measures:

Agency 05 - Supreme Court Program 067 - Probation Services

Program Objectives:

Umbrella Program Number 067 includes Program Classification Numbers 397 and 398.

This umbrella program includes the budget for Statewide Probation and Intensive Supervision Probation.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	11,944,039	13,147,365	15,618,384	13,860,175	15,789,009	14,564,589
Cash Fund	736,462	560,279	696,128	351,234	701,276	367,312
Federal Fund	46,934	0	0	851	0	1,692
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	12,727,435	13,707,644	16,314,512	14,212,260	16,490,285	14,933,593

Performance Measures:

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Program 235 - Probation Contractual Services

Program Objectives:

This program pays for probation services provided by the Office of Probation Administration to local political subdivisions which enter into contractual agreements with the state.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	425,333	0	425,333
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	0	0	0	425,333	0	425,333

Performance Measures:

Agency 05 - Supreme Court Program 405 - Court Of Appeals

Program Objectives:

This program represents the operational costs of the Court of Appeals. Primarily the costs found in Program 405 are for supplemental staff for the Court of Appeals, although non-dedicated staff that works with the Court of Appeals is found in the clerk's office, the reporter's office, and the administrator's office.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	856,141	929,645	1,106,098	972,174	1,121,303	1,014,413
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	856,141	929,645	1,106,098	972,174	1,121,303	1,014,413

Performance Measures:

Specific performance measures for a portion of the support resources are difficult. Nonetheless, performance measures for the Court of Appeals are, as with any court, shown as volume of cases processed and the timeliness with which they are processed.

Agency 05 - Supreme Court Program 570 - Court Automation

Program Objectives:

Program 570 represents the court automation project. This project has developed a court application which is installed in county and district courts across the state. It's currently installed in 91 district courts and 93 county courts. The objectives of the programs are to have a court case processing system available to clerks in courts throughout the state. The initial thrust is with the trial courts. Soon we plan to transform the application so that it can also service the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. Additionally, now that the base system is installed, additional features will be added to provide citizens and users with increasing remote capabilities.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	1,662,712	2,039,597	3,037,916	2,523,607	2,369,216	2,744,846
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	455,463	586,869	600,000	602,438	600,000	617,800
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	2,118,175	2,626,466	3,637,916	3,126,045	2,969,216	3,362,646

Performance Measures:

Measures of performance include the number of counties which are installed, the volume of cases which are being processed on the system, and the adequacy with which it interfaces with a host of other state and local applications.